

Workers' Compensation
Appeals Tribunal

Tribunal d'appel des accidents du travail

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TOOLS FOR RESEARCHING W.C.A.T. DECISIONS

July 1986

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal

505 University Avenue, 7th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X4 (416) 598-4638



WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS TRIBUNAL

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS DEPT.

TOOLS FOR RESEARCHING WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS TRIBUNAL DECISIONS

How do you find a Tribunal decision on a particular subject? Where do you look to find a decision about a specific section of the Workers' Compensation Act? Is there a computer database of Tribunal decisions? The following publications are available from the Tribunal to assist you in researching its decisions:

INDEXES

The Tribunal publishes a <u>Keyword Index of Decisions</u>, <u>Annotated Statute</u>, and <u>Numerical Index of Decisions</u>. These indexes are updated monthly and are available free of charge.

Keyword Index of Decisions

If you are looking for a Tribunal decision on a particular subject, you would use the Keyword Index of Decisions. This is an alphabetical subject word index of workers' compensation terms, body parts, occupations, legal terms, medical terms etc. with numbers of relevant decisions listed beside the appropriate subject. For example, for decisions about workers suffering from hearing loss, you would look up "Hearing loss" and would find the following entry:

Hearing loss 47, 22, 127

This means that Tribunal decisions 47, 22 and 127 concern workers with hearing loss.

Annotated Statute

If you are interested in finding decisions which refer to a specific section of the Workers' Compensation Act, you would look in the Annotated Statute. This index lists sections of the December, 1985 version of the Act which have been referred to by decisions, followed by brief summaries of relevant decisions. For example, for decisions about medical examinations required by employers under s.21, you would look under s.21 and find the following:

S.21

Decision No. 125

The employer applied for a medical examination of the worker under s.21(a). The parties agreed on a medical examination before the hearing was held so that the appeal was withdrawn.

This means that one decision, No. 125, refers to s.21.

Numerical Index of Decisions

If you wanted to refer to brief summaries of Tribunal decisions, you would consult the <u>Numerical Index</u>. This index lists summaries of decisions in numerical order by their decision numbers. For example, the entry for Decision No. 14 reads as follows:

DECISION NO. 14

A worker suffered aphonia when a security door opened unexpectedly and an alarm sounded. She was awarded compensation as this was an injury resulting from an accident as defined in s.1(1)(a)(ii).

DECISION DIGEST

The Decision Digest contains more detailed summaries of Tribunal decisions issued in a specific month or months. Each summary is accompanied by the subject word index headings relevant to the decision, a headnote, the sections of the Act referred to in the decision, and the names of the Panel members who made the decision. A subject word index, statutory index, table of abbreviations, table of previous Tribunal decisions referred to, and a decision order form appear at the back of each issue. The Decision Digest is available monthly free of charge commencing in July, 1986.

WCAT DECISION DATABASE

The WCAT library computer has a word searchable decision database to assist library users in their research. The following information is provided about each Tribunal decision: a brief summary, keyword index headings, the date of the decision, the sections of the Act referred to, and the Panel members' names. Each of these entries may be searched. The library is located on the 7th floor, 505 University Avenue, Toronto (Tel.: (416) 598-4638), and is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Library staff is available to aid members of the public using the computer.

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